

Message Text

SECRET

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16

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SWF-02 AGR-20 EB-11 COME-00 EUR-25

AID-20 XMB-07 DRC-01 IO-14 /208 W

----- 032889

R 051021Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2219

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY SANAA

S E C R E T MOGADISCIO 1360

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XF SA ET SO

SUBJ: SAG CONCERNS OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN HORN

REF: A. JIDDA 5092; B. JIDDA 5114

1. SOMALIA IS CLOSELY TIED TO SAUDI ARABIA BY TRADING TIES-- PARTICULARLY IN SOMALI EXPORTS OF BANANAS AND LIVESTOCK WHICH ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO SOMALI ECONOMY. (ACCORDING SAG EMBASSY HERE, SAUDI ARABIA NOW IMPORTING 60 PER CENT OF SOMALI BANANA OUTPUT AND IN PAST HAS ACCOUNTED FOR 90 PER CENT BY VALUE OF LIVESTOCK EXPORTS.) WHATEVER POLITICAL ORIENTATION OR SOVIET INFLUENCE WITHIN GSDR AT PRESENT, THOSE TIES ARE TO PRACTICAL ADVANTAGE OF BOTH COUNTRIES AND ARE LIKELY TO ENDURE. THERE ARE IN ADDITION ETHNIC AND CONFESSIONAL LINKS BETWEEN TWO PEOPLES.

2. WE BELIEVE THAT WHATEVER DECISION SAG MAKES WITH REGARD TO ECON ASSISTANCE FOR ETHIOPIA, IT CAN AND SHOULD CONTINUE TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN SOMALIA. IN CONSIDERING RESPONSE TO MOST RECENT GSDR REQUEST FOR ECON ASSISTANCE (PARA. 3, REF. B),

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SAG MAY WELL DECIDE THAT THE ROLE SHOULD BE A MODEST ONE BUT WE

BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT SAG PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ON A SELECTIVE BASIS FOR PROJECTS WHICH BEST SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE SOMALI PEOPLE. FOR THE SAG TO KEEP ITS OPTIONS OPEN HERE, WITHOUT EXPECTING SUDDEN OR DRAMATIC CHANGES IN THE GSDR POLITICAL

ORIENTATION OF ITS SOCIETY TIES, WILL REQUIRE PATIENCE, TACT AND DIPLOMACY GIVEN THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT REGIME. HOWEVER, FOR THE LONGER TERM WE BELIEVE THE ADVANTAGES WELL WORTH PURSUING. THE ALTERNATIVE IS TO LEAVE THE FIELD OPEN TO THOSE WHOSE INTERESTS ARE BASICALLY ANTAGONISTIC TO THE SAG. WE BELIEVE SAUDI ARABIA, GIVEN ITS FINANCIAL STRENGTH AND ITS POSITION AMONG THE ARAB STATES CAN ULTIMATELY HAVE AN IMPACT HERE BUT AT THE PRICE OF MAINTAINING ITS CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE GSDR, HOWEVER MEAGRE THE IMMEDIATE RESULTS MIGHT NOW APPEAR.

3. WE SUGGEST THIS POINT WORTH MAKING IN OUR EXCHANGES WITH JIDDA ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN SOMALIA.
KIRK

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NNN

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